

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follow. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (currently amended): A molded interior trim installation material for an automobile, comprising:

an air permeable design layer that faces an interior surface of the automobile and that has a flow resistance value of less than 500Nsm^{-3} ;

a shape-retaining felt layer that maintains its molded shape and that has a flow resistance value of less than 500Nsm^{-3} ; and

a porous adhesive layer that serves to adhere said air permeable design layer and said shape-retaining felt layer and that forms openings therein;

wherein said air permeable design layer, said shape-retaining felt layer, and said porous adhesive layer are laminated and are three-dimensionally formed into a shape that matches a shape of a portion of the automobile where the molded interior trim installation material is installed, and

wherein ~~the molded interior trim material installation has a flow resistance value of 1000 to 5000 Nsm^{-3}~~ the shape-retaining layer has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm and a density of 50 to 300 kg/m^3 .

2 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, wherein a flow resistance value of a laminate of said air permeable design layer, said shape-retaining felt layer, and said porous adhesive layer is within a range from 500 to 4000Nsm^{-3} .

3 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, comprising:

a flat molded portion that extends along a flat portion of the interior surface of the automobile; and

a vertical wall molded portion that extends upwardly from said flat molded portion:

wherein a flow resistance value of a laminate of said air permeable design layer, said shape-retaining felt layer, and said porous adhesive layer in said vertical wall molded portion are relatively smaller than that in said flat molded portion.

4 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, comprising:

a flat molded portion that extends along a flat portion of the interior surface of the automobile; and

a vertical wall molded portion that extends upwardly from said flat molded portion:

wherein a flow resistance value of a laminate of said air permeable design layer, said shape-retaining felt layer, and said porous adhesive layer in said vertical wall molded portion at a front side of the automobile are relatively smaller than that in said flat molded portion.

5 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a flat molded portion that extends along a flat portion of the interior of the automobile; and

a vertical wall molded portion that extends upwardly from said flat molded portion:

wherein a flow resistance value of a laminate of said air permeable design layer, said shape-retaining felt layer, and said porous adhesive layer in said vertical wall molded portion of a luggage compartment of the automobile are relatively smaller than that in said flat molded portion.

6 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, wherein a flow resistance value of said porous adhesive layer is within a range from 300 to 3500 Nsm⁻³.

7 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, wherein a diameter of each of said openings in said porous adhesive layer is in a range from 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the number of said openings is in a range from 40 to 500 /100cm².

8 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, wherein openings are formed halfway through said air permeable design layer or said shape-retaining felt layer at positions that face said openings in said porous adhesive layer.

9 (original): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 8, wherein said opening formed halfway through said air permeable design layer or said shape-retaining felt layer is shaped into a cone that is relatively broad at an entrance side and relatively narrow at a deep side.

10 (previously presented): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, wherein a split fiber formed by extruding different kinds of resins from the same base is included in said air permeable design layer and/or said shape-retaining felt layer.

11 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

forming an air permeable design layer that faces an interior surface of the automobile and that has a flow resistance value of less than 500Nsm^{-3} ;

forming a shape-retaining felt layer that can maintain its molded shape and that has a flow resistance value of less than 500Nsm^{-3} ;

forming openings in a thermoplastic resin film by using a heat needle;

laminating said air permeable design layer and said shape-retaining felt layer through said thermoplastic resin film that is formed with said openings and that is heated and molten; and

thermally forming a laminate of said air permeable design layer, said thermoplastic resin film, and said shape-retaining felt layer to provide a three-dimensional shape that matches a shape of a portion of the automobile where the molded interior trim installation material is installed.

12 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 11, wherein, while said thermoplastic resin film is overlaid on one surface of said air permeable design layer or said shape-retaining felt layer, by using a machine for forming an opening with many heat needles implanted on a circumference, said openings are formed from said thermoplastic resin film side to said air permeable design layer side or from said thermoplastic resin film side to said shape-retaining felt

layer side so as to pass through said thermoplastic resin film and so as to pass halfway through said air permeable design layer or said shape-retaining felt layer.

13 (currently amended): A spreading interior trim material molded to be fitted to an automobile at a spreading position, comprising a laminate having a flow resistance value of 500 to 4000Nsm^{-3} comprising:

an air permeable design layer which is an outermost layer having a flow resistance value of less than 500Nsm^{-3} ;

a shape-retaining felt layer capable of maintaining its molded shape and having a flow resistance value of less than 500Nsm^{-3} ; and

a porous adhesive layer bonding the air permeable design layer and the shape-retaining felt layer and having a flow resistance value of 300 to 3500Nsm^{-3} , said porous adhesive layer having 40-500 throughholes per 100 cm^2 each having a diameter of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said throughholes being uprightly formed between the air permeable design layer and the shape-retaining felt layer,

wherein ~~the spreading interior trim material has a flow resistance value of 1000 to 5000Nsm^{-3}~~ the shape-retaining layer has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm and a density of 50 to 300 kg/m^3 .

14 (previously presented): The spreading interior trim material according to Claim 13, wherein the laminate is comprised of:

a horizontal molded portion; and

an upward wall molded portion that extends upwardly from the horizontal molded portion,

wherein the upward wall molded portion has a flow resistance value smaller than that of the horizontal molded portion.

15 (previously presented): The spreading interior trim material according to Claim 13, ~~wherein the shape-retaining felt layer has a thickness of 2-5 mm and a density of $50-300\text{ kg/m}^3$~~ the spreading interior trim material has a flow resistance value of 1000 to 5000Nsm^{-3} .

16 (previously presented): The spreading interior trim material according to Claim 13, wherein the shape-retaining felt layer is made of a synthetic fiber felt including 5-30% by weight of a thermoplastic resin fiber having a melting point of 100 to 200°C .

Application No.: 10/599,763
Filing Date: November 3, 2006

17 (previously presented): The spreading interior trim material according to Claim 13, wherein the porous adhesive layer is made of a thermoplastic resin having a melting point of 100-300°C.

18 (previously presented): The spreading interior trim material according to Claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resin, polypropylene resin, and modified polyester resin.

19 (currently amended): The molded interior trim installation material for an automobile according to Claim 1, ~~wherein the shape retaining layer has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm and a density of 50 to 300 kg/m³~~ the molded interior trim material installation has a flow resistance value of 1000 to 5000 Nsm⁻³.